

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 ACDA-07 /092 W

-----028100 011234Z /53

R 010910Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9763

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, GB, OAU

SUBJ: BONGO'S TRIP TO FRANCE: OAU ISSUES

SUMMARY: DURING WITH GISCARD JULY 28, BONGO
CARRIED OUT OAU MANDATE TO RAISE MAYOTTE QUESTION BUT
EVIDENTLY DID NOT PRESS ISSUE VERY HARD. BOTH IN PARIS
AND ON RETURN, BONGO ALSO COMMENTED ON SEVERAL OTHER
TOPICS ON CURRENT OAU AGANDA. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH MANDATE GIVEN HIM AT LIBREVILLE

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SUMMIT, BONGO IN CAPACITY AS OAU CHAIRMAN RAISED
MAYOTTE QUESTION WITH FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING
IN COURSE THEIR LUNCHEON MEETING IN PARIS JULY 28.

2. FOLLOWING MEETING, BONGO TOLD FRENCH PRESS
THAT GISCARD HAD TAKEN NOTE OF OAU CONCERNS, BUT THAT
RESULTS OF DEMARCHE WOULD BECOME APPARENT ONLY

AFTER FRENCH INSTITUTIONS HAD BEEN ALLOWED SUFFICIENT TIME TO REFLECT ON QUESTION. PROBABILITY THAT BONGO HAD NOT PRESSED ISSUE WAS REINFORCED ON HIS RETURN TO LIBREVILLE WHERE HE REMARKED TO PRESS THAT MAYOTTE SITUATION IS COMPLICATED BY FACT POPULATION OF ISLAND VOTED FREELY TO REMAIN FRENCH AND BY EXISTENCE OF PROBLEMS ELSEWHERE IN ARCHIPELAGO WHICH FURTHER DISCOURAGE MAHORAIS FROM SEEKING REINTEGRATION IN COMOROS. NONETHELESS, BONGO ADDED, GISCARD HAS PROMISED HE WILL REPLY TO OAU DEMARCHE AND WILL INDICATE QUOTE STEPS WHICH MIGHT POSSIBLY BE TAKEN TO PROMOTE REINTEGRATION OF MAYOTTE INTO ARCHIPELAGO. UNQUOTE.

3. WHILE THIS WAS EVIDENTLY ONLY OAU ISSUE DISCUSSED DIRECTLY BETWEEN BONGO AND GISCARD, BONGO FACED PRESS QUESTIONS BOTH IN PARIS AND ON RETURN HOME ON NUMBER OF OTHER TOPICS CURRENTLY ON OAU AGENDA.

(A) CHAD-LIBYA-EGYPT--BONGO DECLINED COMMENT ON CURRENT OAU EFFORTS MEDIATE CONFLICTS AMONG THESE THREE COUNTRIES, STATING THAT HE PREFERRED AWAIT RETURN OF TOGOLESE PRESIDENT EYADEMA AND PRESENTATION OF LATTER'S REPORT. WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO CHAD SITUATION, BONGO NONETHELESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT FIRST STEP SHOULD BE TO BRING GOC TOGETHER WITH DISSIDENTS TO SEARCH FOR INTERNAL RECONCILIATION. TO THIS END, HE SAID, MALLOUM HAS ALREADY ACCEPTED INVITATION TO MEETING FOR THIS PURPOSE IN LIBREVILLE WHENEVER REPRESENTATIVES OF REBEL GROUPS AGREE TO BE PRESENT. AS FOR BORDER DISPUTE WITH LIBYA, BONGO MADE FLAT STATEMENT THAT DOCUMENTATION PRESENTED BY MALLOUM TO OAU CLEARLY ESTABLISHED CHADIAN CLAIM TO DISPUTED TERRITORY AND FACT THAT LIBYANS ARE OCCUPYING TERRITORY BELONGING TO GOC. HE ADDED THAT THIS PROBLEM SHOULD BE SUSCEPTIBLE OF RESOLUTION BY EXISTING OAU COMMITTEE ONCE CHADIANS WERE UNITED AMONG THEMSELVES.

(B) SAHARA -- BONGO REAFFIRMED HIS INTENTION OF RESPECTING FULLY OAU MANDATE TO ATTEMPT CONVENING OF SPECIAL SUMMIT IN LUSAKA IN OCTOBER, BUT ADDED CAUTIONARY NOTE THAT HOLDING OF SUCH SUMMIT REQUIRED PRIOR AGREEMENT OF TWO-THIRDS OF ALL OAU MEMBERS.

(C) BENIN -- REPLYING TO QUESTION IN PARIS, BONGO
OBSERVED SIMPLY THAT OAU SUMMIT HAD BEEN HELD
DESPITE CONTRARY EFFORTS OF GOB AND CONCLUDED
WITH GENERAL REFERENCE TO HIS DESIRE TO RESTORE
PEACE TO ENTIRE AFRICAN CONTINENT.STEIGMAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d064b350-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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